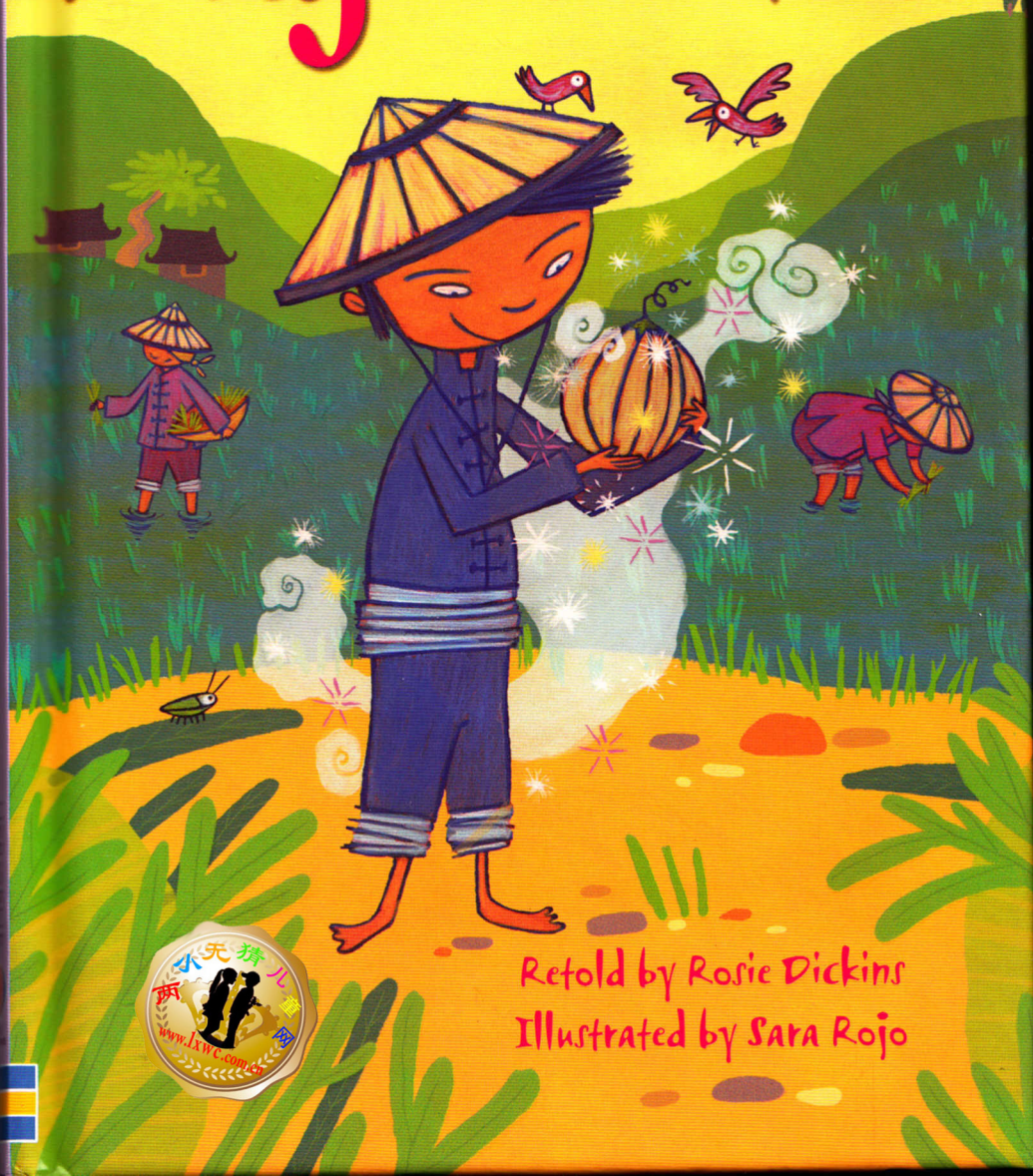


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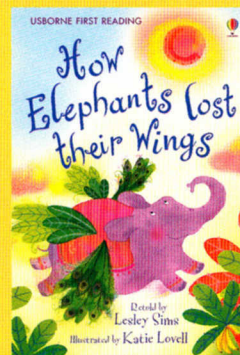
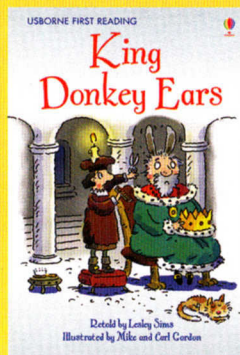
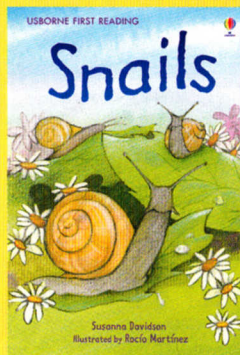
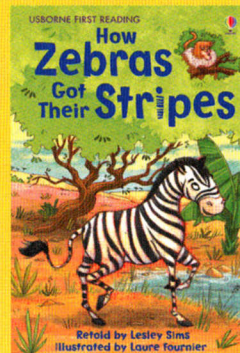
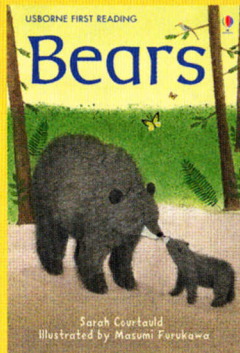
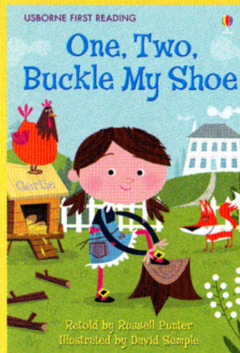
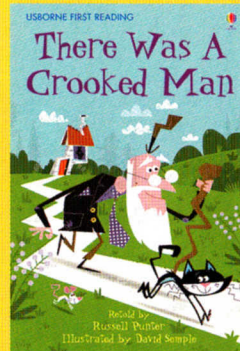
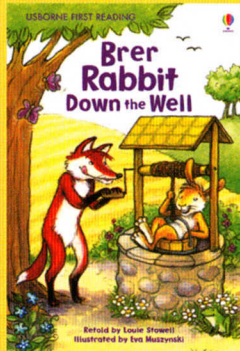
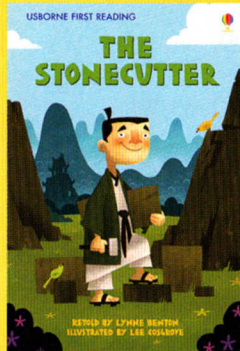
# The Magic Melon



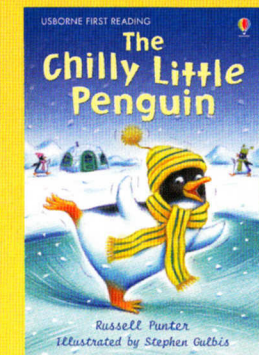
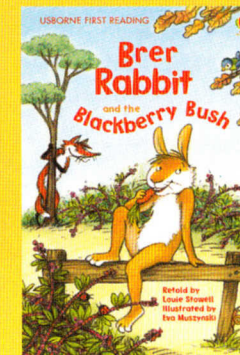
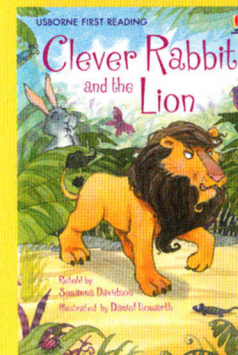
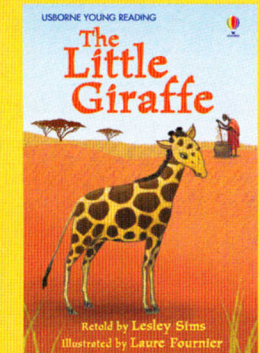
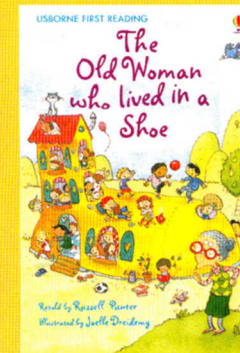
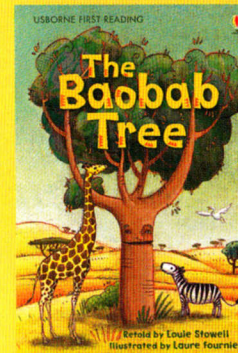
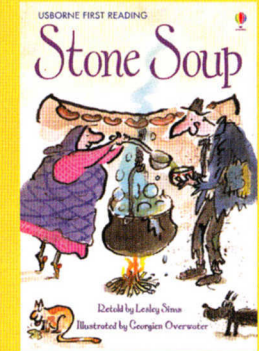
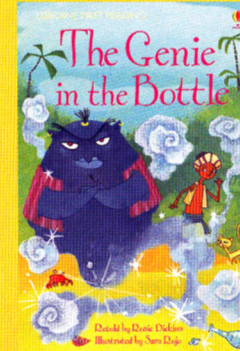
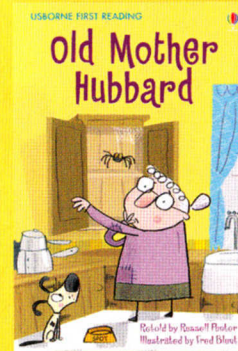
Retold by Rosie Dickins  
Illustrated by Sara Rojo



# USBORNE FIRST READING Level Two



# USBORNE FIRST READING Level Two





# The Magic Melon

A Chinese fairy tale



Retold by  
Rosie Dickins

Illustrated by Sara Rojo

Reading consultant: Alison Kelly  
Roehampton University



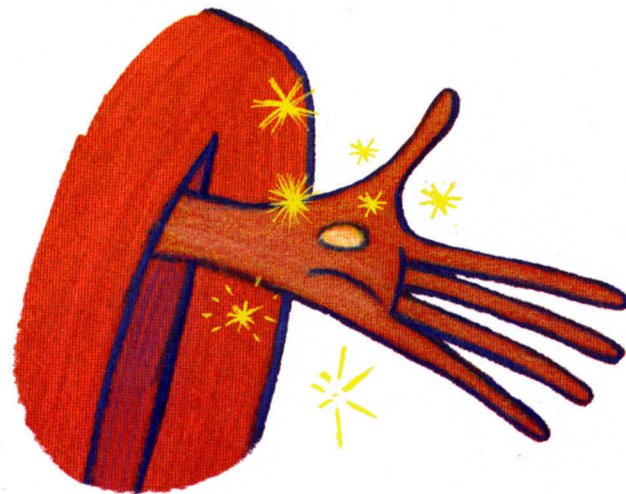
This story  
is about  
lazy Lee,



a kind  
old man,

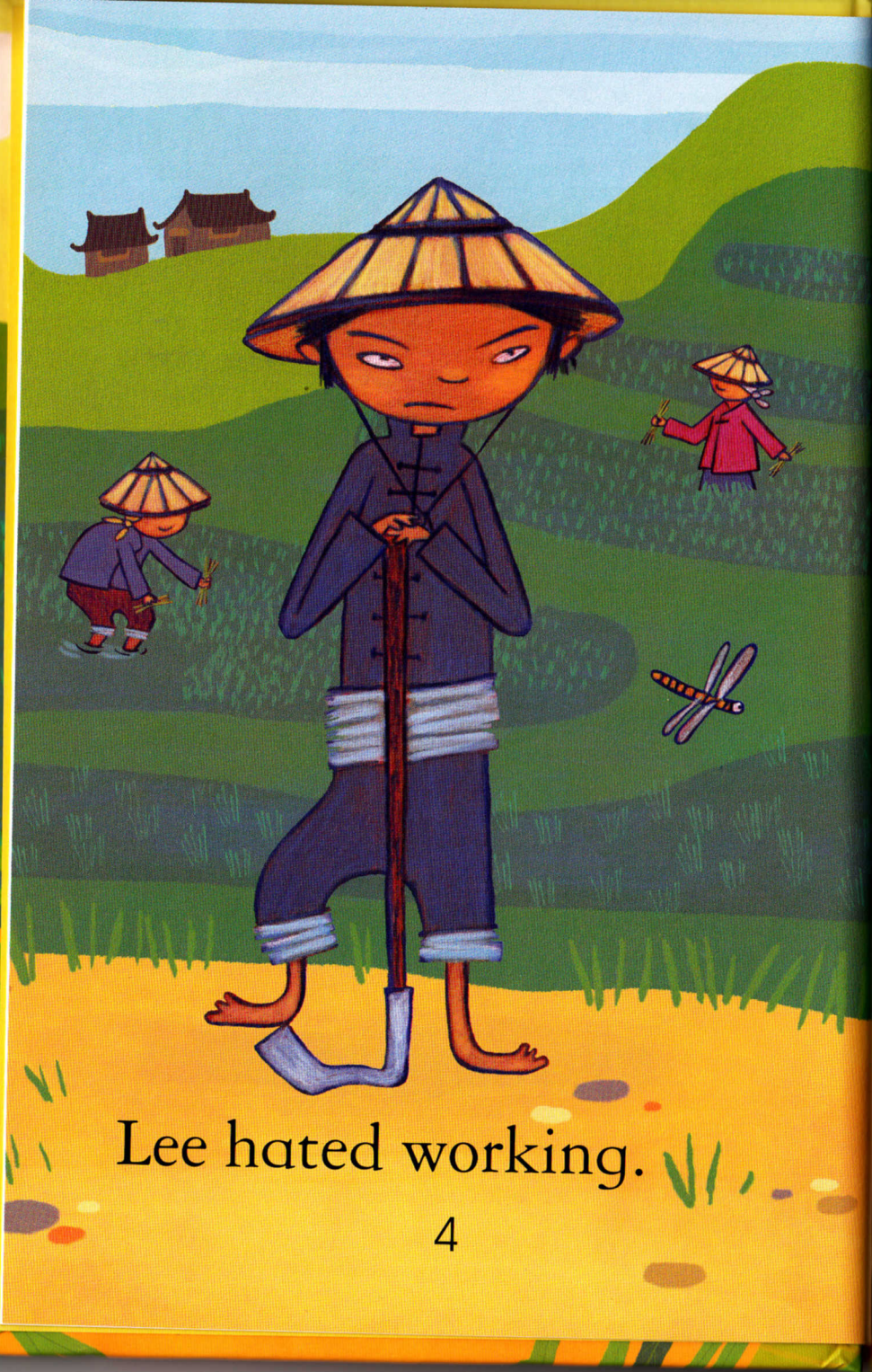


a magic melon



and a magic melon seed.





Lee hated working.

He liked snoozing  
much better.






Will you help us  
grow the rice?

No!

Will you help us  
cook the rice?

No!





Can I help  
eat the rice?

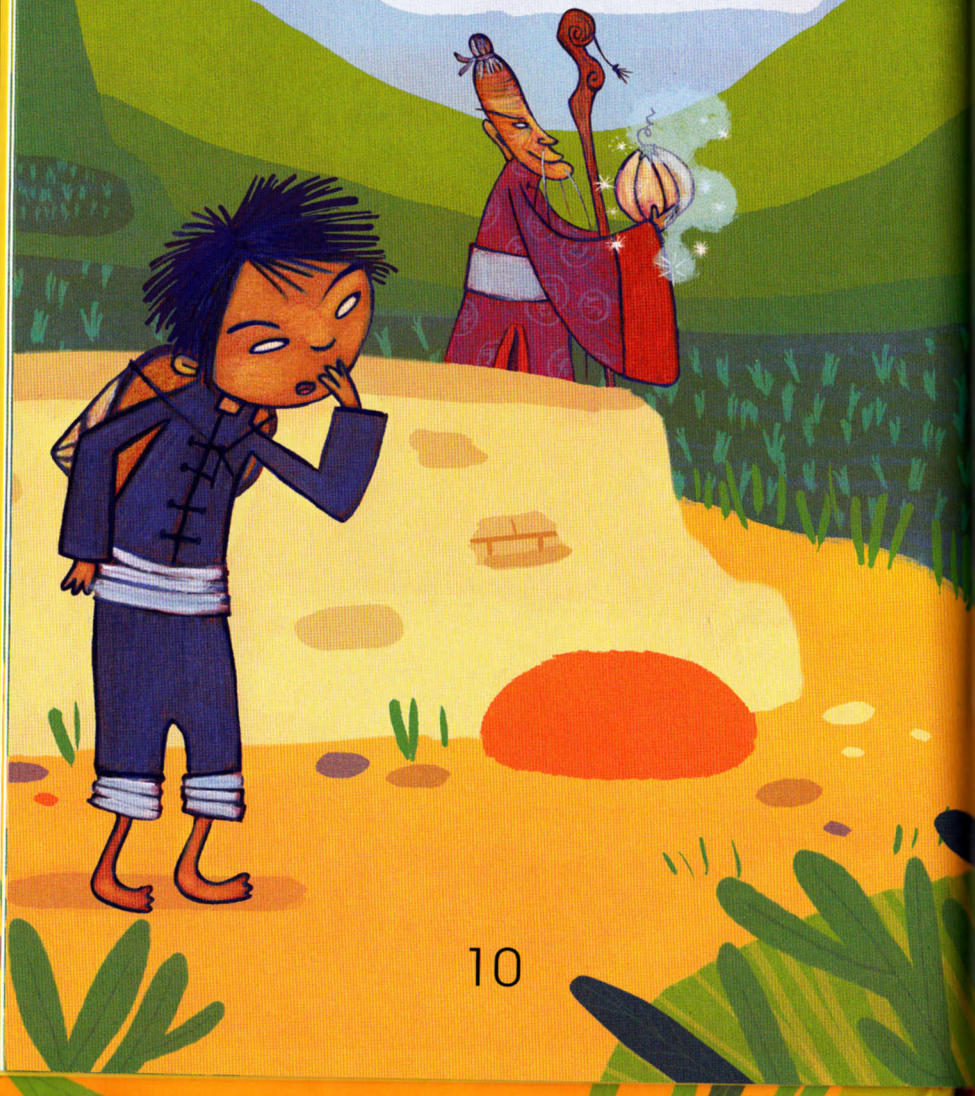
NO!

Soon, Lee was very  
hungry.





Then he saw an old  
man with a melon.



“This is a magic melon,”  
said the man.



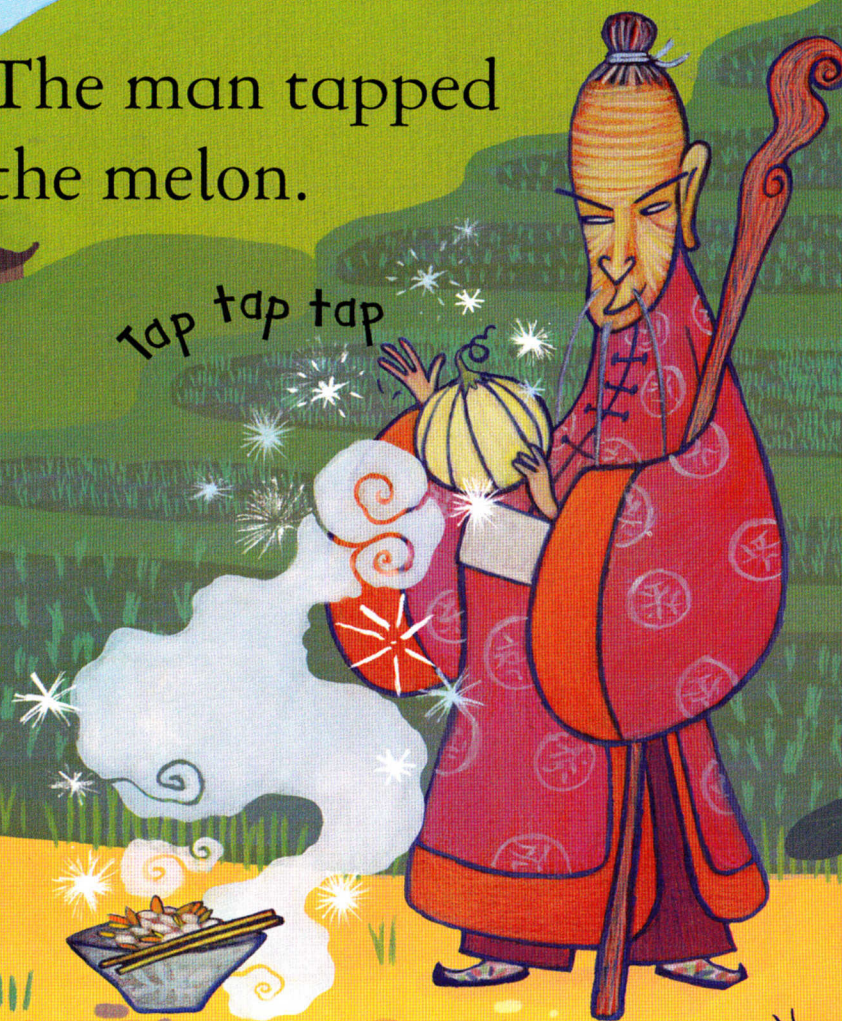
“What do you want for dinner?”



“Fried rice,” sighed Lee.

The man tapped the melon.

Tap tap tap



Ping! There was a bowl of tasty rice.



Lee ate and ate. "I wish  
*I* had a magic melon!"



"You can grow one,"  
said the man. "But it's  
hard work!"





“Here is a seed. Plant it carefully.”

“You must water it three times a day.”

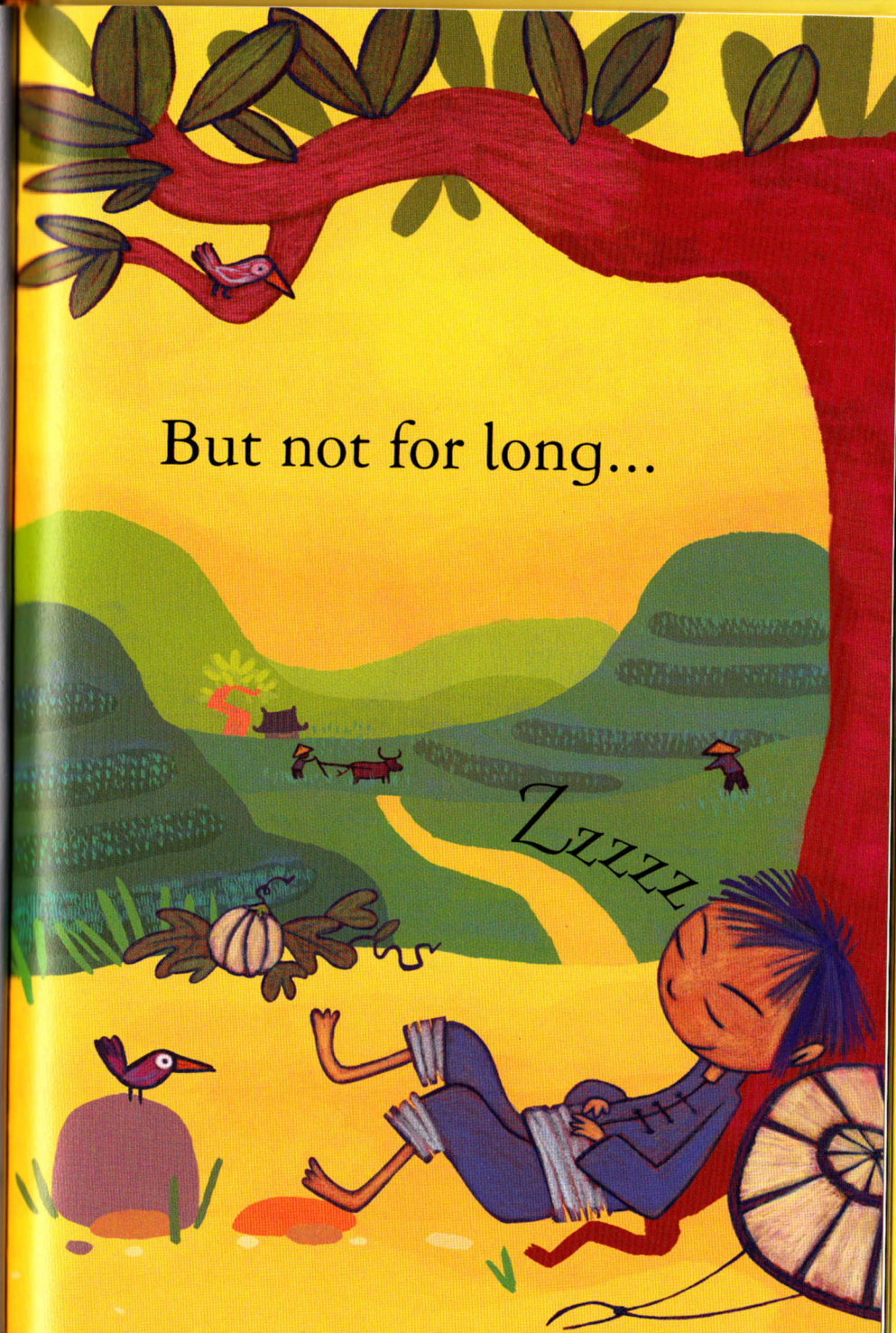




At first, Lee did as he  
was told.



But not for long...







The melon grew bigger...



and bigger.



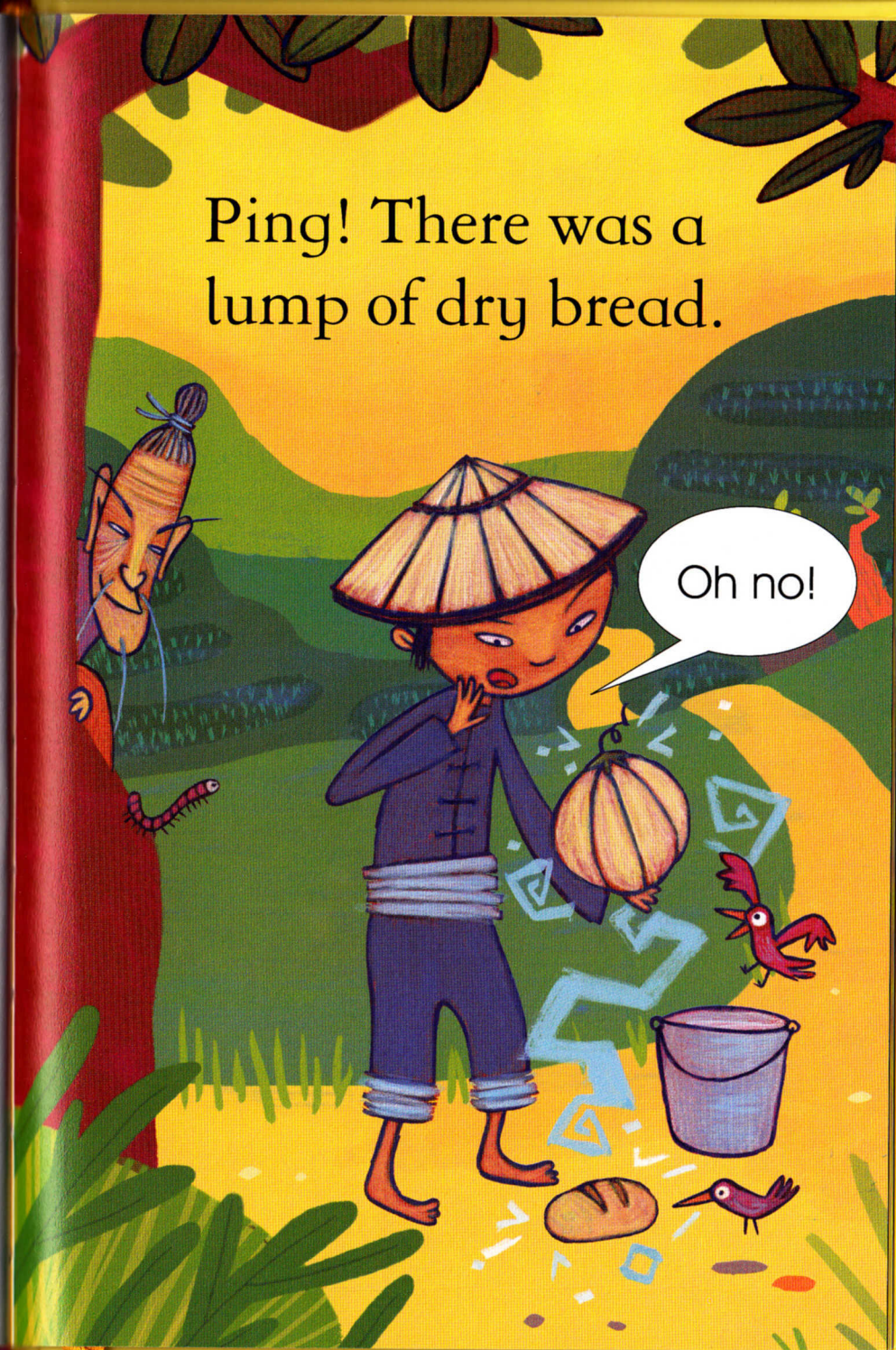
One day, Lee picked it.



He licked his lips and  
wished for dinner.



Ping! There was a  
lump of dry bread.





Someone laughed.  
It was the old man.



You didn't  
look after it,  
did you?

"You cheated the melon,"  
he said.



"Now the melon is  
cheating you!"



# PUZZLES

## Puzzle 1

Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?



There are six to find.





## Puzzle 2

Look at the pictures and put them in order:

A



B



C



D



## Puzzle 3

Find these things in the picture:

bowls

hat

birds

bread

bucket

melon





# Answers to puzzles

## Puzzle 1



## Puzzle 2

B

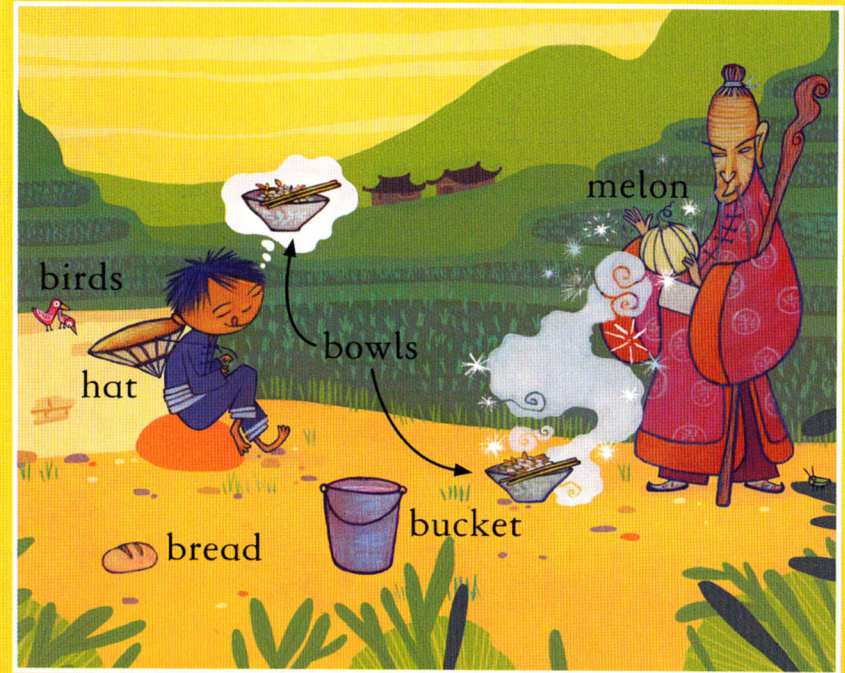
D

A

C



## Puzzle 3



## About the story


*The Magic Melon* is a very old Chinese tale. It has been retold many times. In some versions, the magic fruit is a kind of pumpkin known as a gourd.



Designed by Caroline Spatz  
Series designer: Russell Punter  
Series editor: Lesley Sims



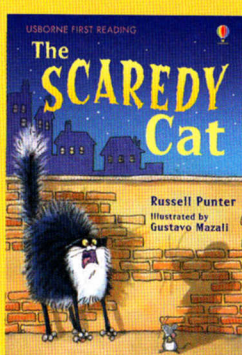
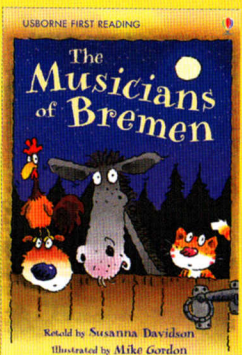
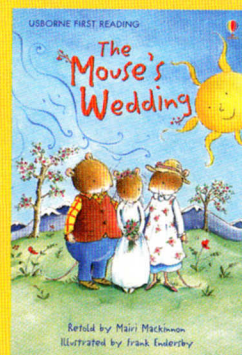
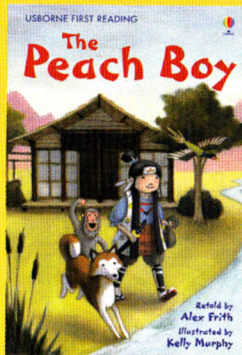
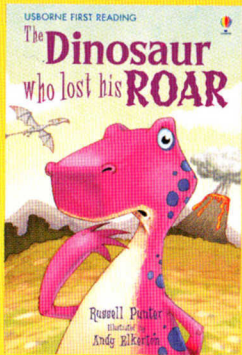
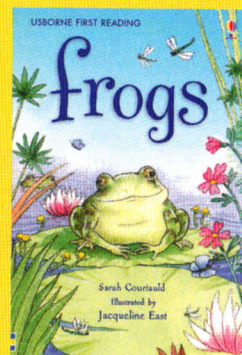
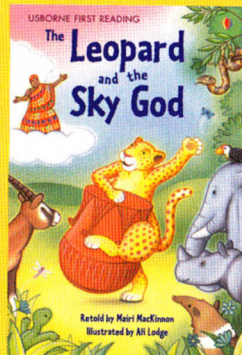
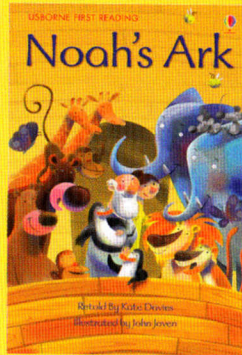
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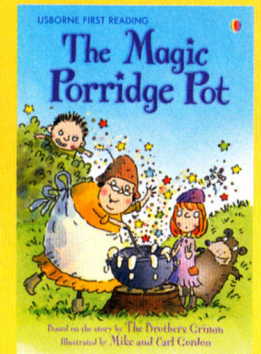
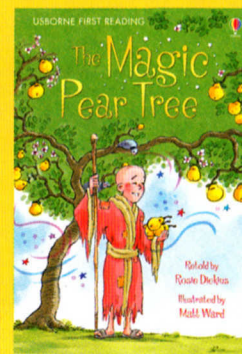
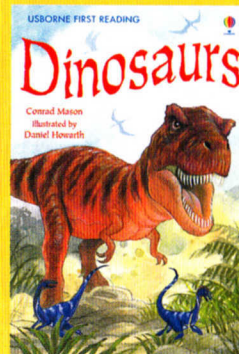
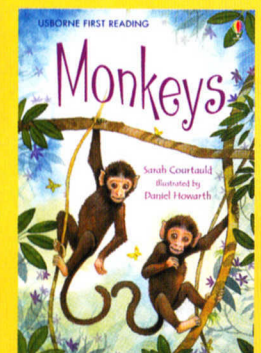
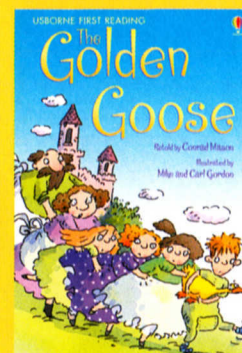
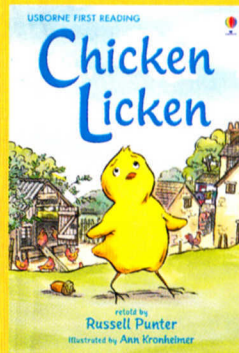
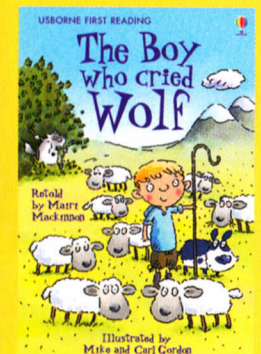
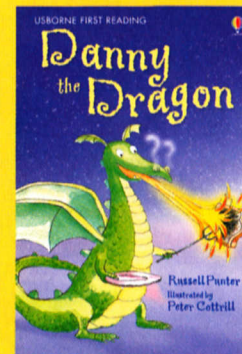
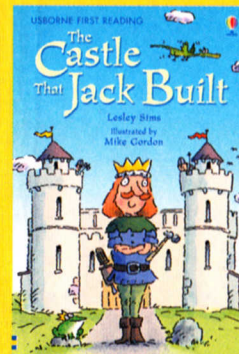
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USBORNE FIRST READING: LEVEL TWO



# The Magic Melon

Lee is too lazy to grow any food, so he gets very hungry. Then he plants a magic melon – but things don't go as planned... This lively retelling of an old Chinese tale has easy-to-read text and fun puzzles to try after the story.



**The Magic Melon** is in the **Usborne First Reading** series, written especially for children who are learning to read, and developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, Principal Lecturer in Education and reading specialist at Roehampton University. With delightful illustrations, these books combine great stories with simple text to excite and inspire any beginner reader.

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